



Aye Aye Captain!

Scenario

Two famous names in exploration are Captain James Cook of the Endeavour and Captain William Bligh of the Bounty. They are important leaders in world history but does this mean they are 'great' people? We need to ask ourselves how well do we really know these explorers? What were they really like as people? Were they ruthless, or compassionate and humane? So... in considering these questions, who would you wish to sail with, Cook or Bligh?



Exploratory Environment

Dear Parents

We are about to start a new social studies Quest called 'Aye Aye Captain.' This unit of work has been developed here at Birkdale Intermediate. Our students work in pairs to answer the question posed in the scenario. They search a multimedia resource called a Quest, listening to video interviews, reading the Logs and notebooks of Captain James Cook and Captain William Bligh. The Quest is used to teach the Social Organisation section of the National Social Studies Curriculum. Our students look in depth at, 'How leadership of groups is acquired and exercised.' In this case we investigate the leadership styles and personalities of two famous explorers.

Ways in which you could support your child during this study:

- Ask the public library for childrens' books on Cook and Bligh e.g. 'Sea of Mutiny' by Ken Catran.
- Visit the New Zealand Maritime Museum on Hobson Wharf, Auckland ph. 373 0800 or www.nzmaritime.org They have an anchor from Bligh's HMS Bounty and models of the Bounty and Cook's ships the Endeavour and Resolution.
- View the DVDs 'Captain James Cook,' and 'The Bounty.' These DVDs are rated PG.

Warning - The generally held view of Bligh shown in the Hollywood movies is not accurate.

- View the DVD series 'Hornblower.' This series gives an idea of life on naval sailing ships, They are rated PG, low level violence.

You might like to read 'The Bounty: The True Story of the Mutiny on The Bounty' by Caroline Alexander.

Bligh

<http://www.ststudy.org.uk/Bligh/bligh.htm>

<http://www.plantexplorers.com/explorers/biographies/captain/captain-william-bligh.htm>

Cook

<http://www.mariner.org/educationalad/ageofex/cook.php>

<http://www.captaincooksociety.com/>



Interview with Peter Dennerly, Naval Historian, Navy Museum, Devonport. The museum has a display on Cook.

Quest Awards



Online Learning Award

Recognizing creative teachers for their pioneering use of telecommunication networks to provide innovative learning opportunities for school-age students.



Presented at the National Education Computing Conference, New Orleans, United States of America.



Finalist Computerworld Excellence Awards.



Presented at the ULearn Conference, Auckland.

Yours sincerely

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